(b) whether there has also been an alarming increase in malignant malaria in various parts of the country; and

(c) whether Government contemplate any planned afforts to prevent these diseases from becoming epidemic

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir. While the total incidence of malaria has been contained between two or three million cases, there has been a decline in total P-falciparum cases from 613005 in 1996 to 469866 in 1997 for the corresponding periods.

(c) The Government have launched the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme and the Enhanced Malaria Control Project to effectively control the spread of these diseases.

Ineffectiveness of Vaccines Manufactured by Haffkine Institute

1001. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the DPT vaccine manufactured by Haffkine Institute in India for whooping cough was found ineffective in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the polio vaccine as well as the anti-venom vaccine made by the Institute had also been found ineffective in the past in Sri Lanka;

(c) how Sri Lanka has reacted to the failure of the DPT vaccine; and

(d) whether this issue has been investigated and any steps taken to strengthen the safety testing of vaccines produced by the Haffkine institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) No official details from Sri Lankan Government about alleged ineffective DPT vaccine manufactured and supplied by M/s Haffkine Institute, Bombay to Sri Lanka have been received. However based upon a newspaper report about the alleged failure of DPT vaccine supplied by M/s Haffkine Institute, the matter was taken up with the High Commission of India at Sri Lanka. Investigations were also conducted at the manufacturers end and clarifications were sought from the Company. The investigation conducted by Directorate General of Health Service revealed that 7 batches of DPT vaccine manufactured by M/s Haffkine were supplied through STC to Sri Lanka in 1996-97. All the batches were released after proper testing. The protocols of manufacture and testing as well as samples of the batches, were also examined by Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli as per general requirement for all vaccine manufactured under EPI programme in the Country. These batches were released after necessary clearance from Central Drug Laboratory.

No complaint has been received about Polio vaccine and anti-venom serum manufactured by M/s Haffkine Pharma.

According to the information received from the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka a committee of enquiry of retired judges has been appointed by the Sri Lankan President to investigate the alleged defective quality of vaccine and observance of procedures in awarding the tender.

Disease Surveillance Programme

1002. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States where the nation-wide disease surveillance programme and training of rapid response team for epidemic diseases have been started;

(b) whether the said programme has been extended to the North-eastern States;

(c) whether any request has been received from the Regional Institute of